



DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LT. GOVERNOR

KEVIN M. BURKE
SECRETARY

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Fire Services
P.O. Box 1025 ~ State Road

Stow, Massachusetts 01775
(978) 567~3100 Fax: (978) 567~3121



STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THOMAS P. LEONARD
DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

For Immediate Release: May 22, 2007
Contact: Jennifer Mieth, (978) 567-3381

Enjoy Your Memorial Day Weekend - Barbeque Safely

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan would like to remind everyone to grill safely this weekend as they commemorate Memorial Day. "Outdoor cooking incidents, such as gas grill fires, burns from flare-ups and improper use of charcoal lighter fluid, increase as people take to their backyards to enjoy a barbeque," said Coan. Almost three-quarters (74%) of all gas grill fires occur between May and September.

State Fire Marshal Coan said, "It is especially important to check for leaks and loose connections the first time you light the grill for the season." Make sure that there are no leaks in the propane hose and regulator before lighting the grill. When lighting a charcoal grill remember that additional lighter fluid should never be squirted onto the coals after they have been lit. Use fireplace matches or a grill lighter to stay at arms length from flames.

In 2006, there were 46 grill fires reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS) by local fire departments in Massachusetts. However, this seemingly small number of fires resulted in property losses of \$28,390. In addition, 3 civilians suffered burns while cooking or lighting grills.

Keep your property and your neighbor's safe. A gas grill fire can extend to the house, a porch or deck. Place your grill at least 6 feet from your home. Gas grills should not be used above ground level or beneath decks and porches. Gas and charcoal grills produce carbon monoxide and should not be used indoors.

Coan added, "Don't be fooled by the slick advertising and fancy billboards. It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state and transport them into Massachusetts" He added, "I would like to remind people that the use of all fireworks is prohibited in Massachusetts except by licensed professionals at permitted shows supervised by the fire department."

Administrative Services • Hazardous Materials Response
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy • Office of the State Fire Marshal